THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central assistance under Integrated Forest Protection Scheme is not given in proportion to the forest area of States. Central assistance is determined on the basis of demand of the State, performance of the State in utilizing the funds released in previous years, availability of budget provision in the State Plan to meet the matching State share of funds and availability of funds under the scheme.

(c) Rs. 444.75 lakhs and Rs. 125.00 lakhs were released to the State of Madhya Pradesh as central assistance under the scheme, out of total of Rs. 5406.69 lakhs and Rs. 3260.98 lakhs released to all States and Union Territories during financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.

"New Delhi as the World's Capital for e-waste recycling"

3084. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Wiil the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a new study, New Delhi is emerging as the World's Capital for e-waste recycling - a hazardous activity taking place without any regulations;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the annual volume of e-waste, the junk produced by discarded electronic equipment in Delhi is around 10,000 metric tones; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to introduce more facilities for proper recycling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No systematic study has been carried out so far on e-waste recycling and annual generation of e-waste junk produced by discarded electronic equipment. There have, however, been some uncomfirmed reports on the quantum of e-waste generation in the recent past.

The provisions under Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 1989 as amended in 2000 and 2003 includeds E-waste. These rules regulate the generation, collection, storage, treatment, disposal,

export and import of ad hazardous wastes. The processes generating hazardous wastes are listed in schedule 1 of these rules. The residues and wastes generated from the operations in electronic industry are considered as hazardous wastes and are listed at SI. No. 31 of schedule 1 of these rules. Further, as per the provisions of these rules Electrical; and Electronics Assemblies are covered under Category B-1110 in Schedule 3 of these rules which are applicable for import and export of hazardous wastes. The import of wastes under this category are only permitted for direct reuse and not for recycling or final disposal. Further, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has undertaken a study for the preparation of a "Guideline Document for Environmentally Sound Recycling of E-Waste" for the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of the Union Territories as well as the industries, through an expert agency having experience in this field.

Crack in Gangotri Glacier

†3085. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

WR the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a big crack has been sighted in Gangotri Glacier which is the place of origin of River Ganges;

(b) If so, whether it has been proved that Himalayan glaciers have started melting due to global warming;

(c) If so, whether it would pose a threat of water shortage in rivers such as Ganges, Indus and Brahmaputra after some years; and

(d) If, so what steps are being taken by Govemment to face this situation?

THE MINIISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Crack observed in Gangotri Glacier near the originating place of the Ganga River is not a new observation. It had been observed in Aerial Photographs of October 1960 and 1962. The origin of these cracks can be attributed to the neo tectonics activity. Such cracks are not conclusive evidence of melting of glaciers due to global warming.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.